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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

September 22, 2006

Applicants: Yutaka MIYAMOTO et al

For: BUTT WELDING APPARATUS AND BUTT WELDING METHOD

Serial No.: 10/523 579 Group: 1725

Confirmation No.: 1367

Filed: January 28, 2005 Examiner: Kerns

International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/007743

International Filing Date: May 28, 2004

Atty. Docket No.: Ace 12

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

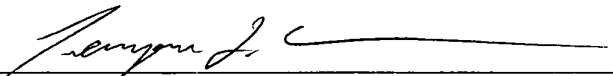
Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 28, 2006,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

(Please see following pages.)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service with
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Terryence F. Chapman